(c) The Chief Executive/Functional Directors in public sector undertakings are always answerable to the Government for their lapses and mismanagement of the unit irrespective of the period of their tenure.

Crisis in Automobile Industry

671. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the automobile industry is facing a crisis arising out of slow pace of indigenisation increasing fuel costs and glut in certain products; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to meet this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) For a proper growth and development of the automobile industry in the country. Govt. have encouraged the automobile manufacturers to upgrade and modernise their technologies to manufacture modern and fuel efficient vehicles. In furtherance of this, various measures such as exemption from MRTP Act, de-lincensing of auto-ancillary industry, fiscal concessions to both the vehicle and component manufacturers, broad-banding and permitting capacity expansion to minimum economies of scale of production, have been taken by the Govt.

Agreement between BCCL and Steel Authority

672. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement has been arrived at between Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and Steel Authority of India Ltd. on the increase in price of coking coal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) how far this is likely to have an adverse effect on the coal consumed by the common man?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the upward revision of price of raw coal notified by the Government, increase in statutory levies payable to State Governments and escalation in operating cost due to wage increase and escalation in cost of stores and other inputs, the price of washed coal, which is a by-product of raw coal input to washery, has been settled by negotiation between Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. and Steel Authority of India Ltd. recently.

(c) Revision of washed coal price has no effect on the coal consumed by common man.

Cut in oil production in Bombay High

673. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to impose a cut in the rate of oil producion in Bombay High while the ONGC has drawn up a plan to maintain the level of production for another five years through enhanced oil recovery and infill drilling;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is likely to affect the further development of Bombay High besides overall reduction in the oil production and if so, to what extent oil imports are likely to increase as a consequence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER